

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of FRANCE:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*
and *Petty-Statefmen*, of all Sides.

Tuesday, July 11. 1704.

THe long Digression from the Course of our Story, which has now taken up two *Reviews*, has carried, I hope, its own weight with it —

As this Paper is farthest from a Design to write what should be disobliging to any body, much less to the Publick; so no body shall with reason, be able to Charge the Author with pursuing any Interest different from that of his Native Country.

But this makes more than a usual Parenthesis, and interruption to his Story; for that he thinks himself bound to explain himself, where he is not understood.

He has been told the Explication of his last Paper, was with too much Contempt of the Objectors, as if no body might misunderstand him, but what deserv'd the name of Fools.

This Censure has less Justice in it, than any he has met with yet, is just the contrary to the Case, and this in short, may be a full Answer to it: If I had thought none but Fools had Objected, 'tis clear I should never have explain'd my self at all, having no business, as I said, to wash *Ethiopians*; but if I spent a *Review* in Explaining my self, it shew'd my Value for the Judgment of the Objectors, let them be who they will.

I don't pretend to have receiv'd any Remarks from Persons of Character, who therefore might demand a more particular distinction of Stile; and for this Reason, I chose not to alter my way of Expression, but talk'd *à la Vulgaire*; and I Claim that no Gentleman, who might have been stumbled at the Paper Explain'd, would raise that Exception to the Explication, as if he were singly pointed at in the return.

I had just enter'd upon that part of the Causes of the *French* Greatness, which respects the Errors of their Neighbours, and I began it with some of our own, particularly the Neglect of Relieving and Supporting the King of *Bohemia*, by which the Protestant Religion in *Germany* receiv'd such a blow, as could never be retriev'd; no, not by *Gustavus Adolphus*, or the Treaty of *Westphalia*.

I am so press'd with variety of Subject, that I am forc'd to break off the Chain of Errors subsequent to that; and to begin with some of those which at present promote the *French* Grandeur; and the reason of this Interruption, is because the present Posture of Affairs seems to call for it; after which I shall return to the Mistakes of former Times.

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and endeavour to make the Reader amends for the disorder of the Story.

In short, as I was going upon the Errors, which were the first causes of the Rise of *French Power*, I am oblig'd to lay them aside, and come to those which are the Causes of its present encrease.

Nor shall the Reader have it to say, That I am always writing Satyrs upon our own Conduct of Affairs; where there is room to see our just Measures, no Man is more glad of the opportunity, and the Truth is, till Her Majesty was pleas'd, *finding her self ill serv'd* to shift hands, the occasions of Praising our own Measures were so few, that a Man might be at a loss to see them, and yet pretend to have his Eyes open too.

But to begin with the Negative, which I have in view, my meaning is this, *England* is now out of the List: The Queen is no way, no, not so much as passively the occasion of their growing Power; Her Majesty's Measures mov'd by New and Polish'd Councils, have been pointed more directly at the Root of *French Power*, than ever we have seen before.

I hope no Man will suppose I reflect on the Memory of King *William*; I know 'tis impossible the Queen should more sincerely wish the Reduction of *France*, than his late Majesty; but if it is expected I should say he was not worse serv'd, oftner betray'd, and consequently hurry'd into more Mistakes and Disasters than her Majesty now is: This must be by somebody, who believes I knew much less of the Publick Matters in those days, than I had the Honour to be inform'd of.

Her Majesty, under the Agency of Her Generals abroad, has chang'd the Scene of War, and carried the *English Arms* from the *Mae* to the *Danube*. The Design is Necessary, Great and Probable; the Difficulties it has put the *French* to, are very remarkable; the Surprise it has been to them, is discover'd in the uncertainty of their Affairs ever since; had they foreseen it, why had they not recruited the Duke of *Bavaria* with 50000 Men, as well as 15, and not forc'd themselves to hazard all for a second Junction, in which, if they should chance to miscarry, their Ally is lost to 'em, and must be ruin'd, or quit their Party and

come over. If they succeed in it, yet it has made two Marches for one, and the War will be as Chargeable as it is Remote.

I know those People who would have our Attempt there Miscarry, talk of the Conjunction of the *French Army* with the *Bavarian*, as a thing Certain; but they must give me leave to expect, while the Imperial Armies are between them, *as, upon the Bavarian Retiring behind the Lech, they are*; It can not be done without blows, unless they will pretend our Forces are March'd so far to stand still; and that an *English Army*, perhaps the best the World ever saw, will decline a Battail with the *Bavarians*, before the Succours come within their reach.

But allow every thing they pretend, it must be granted, *The English Army* are on the spot, the Duke of *Marlborough* is a Battail, a strong Town, and 25 days March ahead of the Marshal *Tallard*, and let him retrieve it if he can; who knows what may farther be done, before the *French* come up?

Farther, let us look at what this March has gain'd us nearer home; The large Detachments from the *French Army* to follow the Duke of *Marlborough*, have left them so feeble in *Flanders*, that they cannot defend the Lines they have made to cover the Country, but our Troops Demolish them on every occasion, have Bombarded *Bruges*, or which is better, got 1200000 Florins for not doing it; Threaten *Ghent* with the like, ruin the Flat Country which the Inhabitants drown to save the rest, and raise Contributions at Discretion.

On the *Moselle* and *Siddle Rhine*, this March to *Bavaria* has had its Effects, the *French* remain so weak on that side, that the Electorates of *Triers*, *Metz*, and *Cologne*, which had reason enough to expect a General Ruin from the Numerous *French Armies*, see themselves at once delivered from that fear, Monsieur *Coignes* having not Men enough left him to venture out of sight of *Landau*.

Metz is delivered from a Bombardment *Philipsburgh* from a Siege, the Palatinate from a general Ravage, and the War Transport'd above 250 Miles out of their bearing — and all this by the *English Armies* March concerted by the Council of faithful

faithful and able Ministers, and consented to by Her Majesty, in pursuance of the hearty Resolution she has taken, *if possible, to reduce the French Power.*

The first Affirmative I shall come to after this Negative, is in short this, The King of *Sweden* is the Principle Article against the present Confederacy; what tho' he is not in the League with *France*, if he is not, he does the drudgery of the *French* he pursues their real Interest while he follows his own imaginary Glory.

'Tis hard, that as I have all along hinted, the Protestants of *Europe* have been the Indirect occasions of the *French* Grandeur; Popish Power built upon Protestant Folly; Roman Catholick Politicks founded upon Heretick Knavery; nothing but the breaches, the Emulation, the separate Interest of Protestants could have given room to so much Greatness and Empire in *France*, had there been unanimity of Councils, Consent of Parties, and Union of Powers among the Protestants of *Europe*; they had all along preserved themselves, and every branch of their weaker Governments, untouched by, and in defiance of the strongest and best united Powers and Politicks of all the Roman Catholicks in Christendom.

The *Swede* is now the support of the

French Interest, and yet the *Swede* a Protestant, not in Alliance with the *French* as to the Matters of War, but Prosecuting a just Resentment in a most unreasonable and Preposterous manner becomes the Casual, I won't say design'd Assistant of the *French* Power.

I cannot however, mention this Affair, without doing the *Swedes* this Justice, that they receiv'd a very great Provocation from the King of *Poland*, by Invading the Province of *Livonia*; and that therefore the beginning a War against *Poland*, was from as Lawful a Principle, as any Prince can possibly go to War; and I am the larger upon that, to avoid entering into any Debates on this Head, by Granting all that can be desired that way.

But all that considered; I shall undertake to charge the K... of S..., in the Process of this History, with Ambition, Injustice, Ingratitude, and above all, an Impolitick and Immoderate Fury, by which he Flies in the Face of the Protestant Interest, injures those that sav'd him from Ruin; and opening a large Breach in the Confederacy, makes way for the *French* Power to over-run, or at least to endanger all *Europe*.

ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

THE Society have receiv'd several Letters lately, by way of information, against the Author of the *Daily Courant*, but laid them all by, that Gentleman having declared against being told of any Mistakes, by the Author of this Paper, as a Person too mean for his Notice: But as 'twas also expected he would give no more occasion for Animadversion, so the Present Case touching a little that which he says he values himself upon, viz. being a true Translator, the Society could not deny the Gentleman the Justice of making their Observation as Publick as he has done the mistake.

Gentlemen,

YOU may inform the Scandalous Club, that the *Daily Courant*, Publish'd this day, is an Imposition on the Publick, for that it dates his News from the *Leiden Gazette*

June 12. and there is not one word in the same, not so much as from the Place he mentions there, as from Rome, Genoa, &c. May 24. This I thought fit to tell you, that it may be inserted in to Morrow's Review.

June 16. 1704.

Yours, &c.

Another Gentleman desired the Society to Constitute the following Articles of this Infallible Translator, in the *Courant* of June the 30th.

' Bist, June 26. The General Diet that ordinarily meets at *Midsummer*, will not sit to do Business till the 6th of this Month, ' ——— Mean time Monsieur *Mellaredo* continues his endeavour to prevail with the Protestant Cantons, to grant the Levy of 3 or 4000 Men, he desired for the King his Master.

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The aboveaid Article being sent by the same Persons, whose Wager lies undecided before the Society, and having given due satisfaction to the Club for the Mistake they were charg'd with, they had this Answer.

That there is no such River as the Ulm in Suabia, or any where else, as they can find, and therefore that Paragraph in the Contract must be a Mistake, and should have been said on this side Ulm, and cannot be sense without it.

As to the second Paragraph, they can not see any thing in it to mar the sense, if the Copy be right ——— so that upon the whole, they count the matter divided, one part to be good, and the other bad; as to the Wager they must agree that among themselves.

Another Letter the Society receiv'd from a Person, whose Sex they suppose they mistook by the hand, and now they mistake again by the Substance as follows;

Sir,

Since you have undertaken the Review for our News, I cannot but think you the properest Person to explain the London Gazette, where it is not intelligible. In that of Monday last, in the Article from Lisbon, it is said, That the City of Fuente Grinaldo was taken by Assault, and the Garrison surrender'd upon Discretion; to pass by the Title of a City given to a Place scarce better than a Village; the Difficulty is, how a Place could be taken by Assault, and at the same time surrender upon Discretion? I beg you will either explain this point, or at least allow that the Gazetteer imposes upon us, giving us Nonsense and Contradictions to swallow, in spite of our Reason. I could furnish you with much more of this nature, but that I will not be too troublesome the first time.

Yours,

July 5. 1704.

S. S.

The Observation is so just, and so much to the purpose, that the Society has left it as it lies; with only this Remark, That such things as those are no News in our Gazette.

The Ingenious Author of the following Letter, has made another Attack upon our Title, as follows.

Gentlemen,

I Cannot but agree with you, in putting the Dispute between us upon so fair an issue as you have done; so that if I shall discover in your Title, an impropriety of Phrase, or an unpresumed boldness of Expression, I hope you will Pardon me for giving you trouble upon this Account. I am at a loss what it is to speak or write improperly, if it be not so, to apply a word to one Idea in the Mind, that uses to be apply'd only to another. The word (Scandalous) for the purpose, uses to denote, that the Subject of which it is predicated (to speak with the Logicians) either deserves, or labours under a Scandal; both which, I think, are as far from being imputed to your Society, as you are from imputing either to your selves, who so agreeably expose and ridicule what is scandalous in other People; and I take it to be a boldness without Example, that carries any Authority with it, to make use of words neither Illustrating or Beautifying a Discourse, in a Sense different from that which is most Natural, most Obvious and most Received. I am

Your Humble Servant,

June 5. 1704.

J. J.

To this Gentleman we are ordered to Answer; 'Tis true, Sir, as to the word you insist upon, we allow your Argument, but you have taken no Notice of the Examples We gave you, both in Milton's Smedymnus, Dryden's, Mac Fleckno, Wessly's *Travels* and abundance of Authors of Reputation, who have taken the Liberty to make words signify something, which signified nothing before; and with submission, we think we have equal Authority to make words generally accepted one way, serve us in another.

The like freedom these Authors take with Quantities and Parts of Speech, making Verbs of Substantives, Participles, &c. and why may we not be allow'd to make an Adjective a part of a Proper Name, or make a Word become a Phrase.

If the Gentleman will please to give himself the Trouble to Answer this, the Society promises to alter their Title, and are his humble Petitioners to furnish them with a better.